

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 525
By Coffey

A RESOLUTION relative to funding of the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management Program for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

WHEREAS, the operations of predecessor federal agencies and the past and current operations of the U.S. Department of Energy now require the control and abatement of legacy environmental hazards and also require ongoing waste management activities which, together, involve more than 130 sites and facilities in over 30 states and territories; and

WHEREAS, the research and production missions of predecessor agencies and of the U.S. Department of Energy have been essential to the national defense; to development of safe, economical and reliable energy sources; and to many fields of scientific research which have enriched our nation; and

WHEREAS, since 1942, the Oak Ridge Reservation in Anderson County, Tennessee, and in Roane County, Tennessee, has hosted missions and programs contributing to national security, national energy supply, national environmental enhancement, and national economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory is a national asset with world-class recognition and capabilities in energy, environmental materials, computer science, research and development that contributes to Tennessee's and the nation's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Management Program of the U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for control and abatement of environmental problems on the Oak Ridge Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Management Program of the U.S. Department of Energy is further responsible for essential support of ongoing national security and national scientific research missions on the Oak Ridge Reservation through provision of waste management services and through technology development activities; and

WHEREAS, appropriations for the defense environmental management, non-defense environmental management, and uranium decontamination and decommissioning funds for the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Programs have been reduced significantly for federal fiscal year 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge community and the East Tennessee region now host a world-class community of over 100 environmental management and service companies which are demonstrating that environmental problems and ongoing waste management activities can be accomplished with greater efficiencies and effectiveness within the constraints of reduced budgets; and

WHEREAS, the need to address environmental management challenges exists on the Oak Ridge Reservation and the talent and technological capability to address such challenges reside in the surrounding region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly finds that stable and adequate funding of the DOE Environmental Management Program for the Oak Ridge Reservation is essential to the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and essential to the protection of the environmental quality of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly memorializes the committees of the United States Congress with jurisdiction for both program authorization and for appropriation of funds to the DOE Environmental Management Program to provide authorities and funding to this program for federal fiscal year 1997 sufficient to assure Tennessee citizens that:

- (1) Oak Ridge Reservation contaminants are controlled to prevent situations where it would cost more at a later date to control the spread of contamination;
- (2) workers on the Oak Ridge Reservation are not exposed to undue risks;
- (3) wastes that are produced in the ongoing defense and scientific research missions on the reservation are characterized and managed in such a way as to prevent a future environmental liability;
- (4) wastes receive appropriate treatment and are moved on to final disposal, thus avoiding the continuing costs of interim storage where disposal capacity is now available;
- (5) nuclear materials and facilities stabilization and decontamination and decommissioning of facilities are accomplished expeditiously by funding such projects now to reduce the overall life-cycle costs to taxpayers and to allow industry to take advantage of the infrastructure, technology, and capable work force;
- (6) U.S. Department of Energy programs are able to comply with state and federal law to the same extent that private business and industry are required to comply with state and federal law;
- (7) local governments and area citizens are fully involved in shaping the environmental management programs which will determine future uses and the environmental conditions appropriate for such future uses of the Oak Ridge Reservation; and

(8) existing agreements made in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation and progress by the State of Tennessee with the U.S. Department of Energy are honored to the fullest extent applicable by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That enrolled copies of this resolution be transmitted to the respective chairs of the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Subcommittees of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

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